

Chicago Negroes Gain in Business Political Strength

Non-White Population Tops 600,000,
Most Migration Comes From Delta Area
Of South; Strides Are Remarkable

By JOSEPH D. BIBB
(Editor, Courier Chicago Edition)

CHICAGO—Jean Point DuSable, more colored than white, according to some historians, about one-hundred and nineteen years ago, selected a spot somewhere in the vicinity of present Chicago as a likable stopping place for his trading with the Indians, and on the basis of this is given credit for being the founder of the city.

Be that as it may, in the intervening years it became one of the world's great cities, second largest in the United States, its hog butcher, a cultural center, one-time gangland battleground, and in the eyes of some a Midwestern land of opportunity for thousands of Negroes.

Edged by lake and prairie, fed by rail arteries running south, east and west, this sprawling metropolis today is bursting at the seams with a population of 5,495,364. In the same metropolitan area, as of the 1950 census, there live 605,346 non-white persons. The increase over the decade between 1940 and 1950, from a figure of 334,865 to the latest total, was of 80.8 per cent.

The colored American began coming on the Chicago scene as a sociological and economic factor during World War I. From the South they deserted the Delta levees and the cotton fields to become immersed in grease pits and assembly lines of industry to later figure strong in the trade and political life of the city.

By the end of World War II and definitely by 1950, Chicago's Negroes might be said to have finally "arrived."

CHICAGO'S COLORED population has Legislators in the State House, a Representative in Congress, judges in the municipality and numerous lesser officials scattered throughout the administrative life of the city.

Five serve as State Representatives, one is a State Senator, one a member of the Illinois Commerce Commission, they are on the Board of Education, three are city aldermen, three are judges, one for the first time, is on the bench of the Superior Court, and one is in the Court of Claims.

Along the same lines (note of progress) the economic potential of the metropolitan area's more than one-half million Negroes is tremendous. Besides a gradual absorption into the general economic stream of the city's life, the colored population supports ten successful insurance companies and two Federal savings and loan companies.

They support hundreds of businesses, more than 1,200 churches, 307 lawyers, 275 physicians and 180 dentists. Chicago's Negro Chamber of Commerce is one of the most active in the nation's business life and the race's political potential is becoming more and more of a force to be reckoned with on all issues.

ALL THE foregoing speaks for the metropolitan area. It might well be said to cover the outlook in Chicago proper where there is in the neighborhood of 250,000 registered voters.

As much as can be said for colored progress generally in Chicago, it cannot yet be said that the Negro's full political potential has yet been reached.

In the burgeoning Second Ward of the Windy City there is said to be 56,000 colored voters; in the Third, 51,000, and in the Twentieth, 48,000. In the Fourth and Fifth Wards there is said to be another 100,000 voters almost equally divided between colored and whites.

Home ownership among Negroes in Chicago, contrary to reports, is less than 10 per cent, but the figure is good compared with that in other cities. Mortgages floated on some of the soundest realty investments among colored persons in the city were given by colored firms.

New arrivals in Chicago have brought ponderous difficulties in assimilation but the basic trend is toward normal family life. Solution of the housing bottlenecks will decrease crime, vice and juvenile delinquency.

Chicago, with its three thousand miles of streets and two hundred miles of boulevards, nestling on the shores of Lake Michigan, has ambitious plans for redevelopment, expansion and beautification.

The city contemplates spending \$12 billion dollars for the "Chicago Plan" program. Colored citizens will demand integration into the plan.

Educational opportunities are legion. Here are the Universities of Chicago, Northwestern, Loyola, De Pauw, and branches of the University of Illinois. High schools and elementary institutions located in colored communities need expansion, and attention is being directed this way. A perhaps in this direction lies the avenue along which the higher note of progress for the Negro in Chicago will be attained, general and better education facilities, better economic opportunities and a better chance for cultural development.

This is the picture of DuSable's Chicago since he first made portage on its shores more than one hundred years ago. From probably a trading post to its present eminence as a world metropolis Negroes have figured in the city's birth and coming of age.

Cover the city's progress with another 100 years of history and able leadership and some historian might be able to say the arrival of Negro Jean DuSable

was a forerunner of things to come. Look at his race who followed after him.

Economic Gains of Negroes Listed In Study of Senate Labor Committee

By JOHN CHADWICK

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP)—A Senate labor subcommittee made public tonight a study of the economic status of Negroes in the United States and Chairman Humphrey (D-Minn) said these two major conclusions could be drawn from it: *Constitution*

1. "In almost every significant economic and social characteristic which can be measured—including life expectancy, education, employment and income—our Negro citizens, as a group, are less well off than our white citizens."

2. "However, in almost every instance, the status and well being of both groups have improved and the differences between them narrowed in recent years."

The study was prepared by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics in response to a request from the Senate labor-management subcommittee during its hearing earlier this year on anti-job-discrimination legislation. In a statement accompanying a summary of the report, Humphrey said "the evidence is clear that legislation by the Congress is in

order to provide equal opportunity in employment, adequate housing, fuller education and improved health facilities for all Americans."

He long has been a leading advocate of fair employment practices legislation and other civil rights measures which have aroused strong opposition from Southern senators.

In a summary of the report, the subcommittee said:

The highest proportion of Negro workers continues to be found in the lower paying and less skilled occupations, such as service workers and laborers.

However, the shift of Negroes into better paying and more skilled jobs, accelerated during the war years, has in general been maintained.

In 1950 the Negro wage and salary worker earned an average of about \$1,300, or 52 per cent of the average for white workers, while in 1939 the average income for Negro wage and salary workers was about \$400—less than 40 per cent of the average for white wage earners.

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Among these 27 cities, the proportion of Negroes in the population declined only in the five Southern cities of Memphis, Birmingham, Houston, Norfolk and Dallas.

In 1950 over 4½ million, or 29.5 per cent, of all of the nation's 15½ million Negroes were living in these 27 cities, compared with nearly 24 million, or 17.6 per cent, of all white persons in the population.

Turning to education, the report said that in 1950 Negroes aged 25 or over had completed an average of seven years of school, almost three years less than the average for white.

It added, however, that this represents an increase since 1940 of a year or more for both groups. The greatest increase, of 1.3 years, occurred among Negro women.

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In the last decade New York, Detroit, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, Cleveland, San Francisco, Newark and Oakland have experienced an increase of more than 50 per cent in their Negro population.

The report said these were among 27 cities with 50,000 or more Negroes in 1950—all cities in

Atlanta Negroes Show Strongest Gains in Income

Increased Political Strength, Economic
Advancement, Social Changes All Mark
Renaissance Metamorphosis of Great City

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES Jr.

(Third in a Series)

ATLANTA—Long referred to as the "Athens of the South," and frequently called the "business capital" of the Negro in America, Atlanta presently is undergoing political and social changes that might sometime in the future be looked back upon as the renaissance of the Negro in the "New South." Changes in Metropolitan Atlanta during the past decade point strongly to that likelihood.

With education playing an important part in the over-all change, the 20 per cent increase in the Negro population of the Atlanta metropolitan area from 1940 to 1950 has had a tremendous political, social and economic effect upon the city. Taking this as a premise upon which to base reasonable prediction, the trend augurs well for Atlanta Negroes and the South as a whole.

During the last census period the colored population in Metropolitan Atlanta increased from 143,394 to 172,500. This nearly 30,000 increase concentrated mainly in the Atlanta city area which, incidentally, gained another 100,000 persons. The minor portion of the gain, according to the census report, was distributed in Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb Counties.

The current voting strength of the Negro in Atlanta (Fulton County) is estimated at 24,000. In the metropolitan area it is placed at 30,000. The over-all result is growing respect for the Negro vote potential by candidates for city and county elective offices. The more immediately tangible result has been a quicker response to the demand for more public housing projects for the colored population.

The colored vote in Atlanta proper is about 23 per cent of the total registered and more and more is in the eye of city officials. The present city administration owes its incumbency largely to the colored vote given it during the 1949 elections, despite the

\$2,500. More than 300 had in-for Negroes.

comes ranging from \$7,000 to above \$10,000 annually. How was it used?

This relatively high income accounted for several sections of new, above \$12,500 class homes which both colored and white Atlantans point out with pride to visitors.

This income also accounts for the existence of a Negro bank, member of the Federal Reserve System, with assets approaching the \$5 million mark. Atlanta Negro businesses number well over one thousand. And as elsewhere throughout the nation, those Negroes who can afford it comprise a healthy "quality market" in consumer goods.

General banks and credit agencies in Atlanta have found Negroes ranking high as good risks for home, appliance and consumer credit goods loans. Surveys disclose that while colored Atlantans have broken into several new brackets of employment, the majority still remain in the laboring, semi-skilled and service occupations.

The total number of private household and service workers and laborers in the Atlanta area actually showed a decrease during the last census period, 68,547 in 1940 to 61,200 in 1950.

NEGROES IN Atlanta have a sizeable business in the field of transportation (taxi cabs and other modes of travel), despite the provision of public conveyances which, due to the jim-crow set-up, they find increasingly distasteful. For some time now, Negroes have been agitating for the employment of colored operators on public conveyances that service for the most part their neighborhoods.

In Atlanta is the greatest concentration of colleges for Negroes in the country, a half-dozen at least.

The public school enrollment of colored pupils is placed at approximately 33,000 in the Atlanta area where some schools still have double sessions despite the Georgia Minimum Foundation program to correct this evil. Due to legal pressure to ease this condition, the number of colored teachers has been increased from 550 in 1940 to 950 in 1950.

Legal action by the NAACP to do away with segregation in state-supported schools is having the effect of increased facilities

Selling Negro Consumers

stantial, undoubtedly will be even more pronounced in the next few years.

Peaceful Progress of Negroes

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Your editorial of Nov. 23 "Gains by the Negroes" represents another example of the unbiased, free and constructive editorial policy of THE TIMES, and therefore deserves the expressed appreciation of all who desire to see our country continuing to move steadily and peacefully toward the realization of those ideals reflected in our Constitution.

Your editorial was based upon the recent report of a "Senate Subcommittee on Labor and Labor Management Relations" which showed the remarkable social and economic gains made by Negroes since 1940. The report merits the careful study of all students and thinkers concerned with progress.

The Negro Labor Committee, without fanfare or noise, has quietly and unselfishly played an important role in accelerating this now recognized forward step of the Negro worker, and we have been able to do it in spite of the destructive efforts of Communists on one side and the anti-labor industrialists on the other.

As we continue to register this peaceful progress we will make it more difficult for the enemies of democracy.

FRANK R. CROSSWAITH.

New York, Nov. 24, 1952.

GAINS BY NEGROES SINCE '40 REPORTEL

Study Shows Economic and Social Advances, but Lag Behind Whites Continues

CLOSING OF GAP IS URGED

Congress Must Pass Bills to Provide Equal Opportunity, Senator Humphrey Says

Nov. 11-21-52

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—The relative economic and social status of Negroes in this country has improved in nearly every respect since 1940, according to a study made public today by the Senate subcommittee on Labor and Labor-Management Relations.

The Negro was, nevertheless, shown to be still less well off than the white man, economically and socially, though both made significant strides during the period.

The study was prepared at the subcommittee's request by the Bureau of Labor Statistics under the direction of Harold Goldstein, assistant chief of the Division of Manpower and Employment Statistics.

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota and subcommittee chairman, said that the report provided "clear" evidence that "legislation by the Congress is in order to provide equal opportunity in employment, adequate housing, fuller education and improved health facilities for all Americans."

Lag in Family Income

The data, consisting largely of 1950 census figures, showed that the Negro wage and salary worker earned an average of about \$1,300, or 52 per cent of the average for white workers, in 1950. The 1939 average was about \$400, or less than 40 per cent of the white average.

The figures on family income covered only the 1945-50 period and, contrary to other economic indices contained in the report, reflected a decline in the relative status of Negroes. Their average income was \$1,860 in 1950, or 5 per cent of the average income of \$3,445 among white families. In 1945, the Negro families' average was \$1,538, or nearly 57 per cent of the \$2,718 for white families.

Other Highlights of Report

Other highlights of the report included the following:

¶Unemployment—The average rate since 1947 has been 50 per cent above that for whites, but has dropped more sharply among Negroes.

¶Occupational changes—Negroes have made appreciable gains up the occupational ladder since 1940, but in comparison with white workers are still predominantly

employed in lower-paying and less-skilled occupations. The proportion of employed Negro men engaged in professional occupations remained at about 2 per cent, while the proportion of Negro women in such positions rose to more than 6 per cent by 1953, largely because of the increased demand for Negro school teachers.

¶School enrollment—The percentage of Negroes enrolled increased appreciably between 1940 and 1950 and was proportionately much greater than among whites in the 18-to-24 age group. About 15 per cent of all Negroes 18 to 24 were enrolled in schools in 1950, as against 9 per cent in 1940.

¶Educational attainment—In 1950, Negroes aged 25 and over had completed an average of seven years in school, nearly three years less than the average for whites. This represented an increase since 1940 of a year or more for both groups. The highest increase, 1.3 years, occurred among Negro women.

¶Death rates—They are still higher among Negroes than among whites, but the difference has consistently narrowed. In 1935, the death rate among Negroes was 17.3 a 1,000 and among whites 11.1. By 1949, the death rate for Negroes was 12.6 and 8.4 for whites.

¶Life expectancy—The difference between whites and Negroes has narrowed while the expectancy of both has risen, largely because of the control of infectious disease. About thirty years ago the life expectancy of a Negro boy at birth was 47 years, or nine years less than that of a white boy. By 1949 the expectancy of the Negro boy had increased to nearly 59 years and that of the white boy to 66.

¶Population shifts—marked migration of Negroes from the South to Northern, Central and Western states between 1940 and 1950 was noted. More than 4,500,000, or 29.5 per cent of the country's 15,500,000 Negroes, were living in twenty-seven cities in 1950.

Negro Shown On Upgrade In Report

Labor Subcommittee Says Economic Status Has Greatly Improved

By JOHN CHADWICK

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2. "However, in almost every instance, the status and well being of both groups have improved and the differences between them narrowed in recent years."

The study was prepared by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics in response to a request from the Senate labor-management subcommittee during its hearing earlier this year on anti-job-discrimination legislation.

Legislation Held In Order

In a statement accompanying a summary of the report, Humphrey said "the evidence is clear that legislation by the Congress is in order to provide equal opportunity in employment, adequate housing, fuller education and improved health facilities for all Americans."

He long has been a leading advocate of fair employment practices legislation and other civil rights measures which have aroused strong opposition from Southern senators.

In a summary of the report, the subcommittee said:

The highest proportion of Negro workers continues to be found in the lower paying and less skilled occupations, such as service workers and laborers.

However, the shift of Negroes into better paying and more skilled jobs, accelerated during the war years, has in general been maintained.

Average Income Up
In 1950 the Negro wage and

The improving economic status of this nation's 15,000,000 Negroes is being reflected in a growing list of advertisers who are directing copy especially to Negro consumers.

This new development in merchandising is grounded in the bedrock of official census figures showing that the average Negro family income advanced 192 per cent in the decade from 1940 to 1950, as against an earnings increase of 146 for the average white family.

Urban home ownership by Negroes is estimated to have reached in 1950 a level 130 per cent above that of 10 years previously, and Negro college enrollment is 25 times what it was in 1930. Between 1940 and 1950, there was a 77 per cent increase in the number of Negro craftsmen and technicians.

All of this had figured in a gratifying trend which thus far has brought Negro purchasing power to the unprecedented rate of \$15,000,000,000 annually. And it's safe to assume that the Negro market will continue to expand, as more and more Negroes acquire the education and the skills that command higher pay.

Although among merchandisers there is one school of thought holding that Negroes do not constitute a separate market, highly successful results are being claimed for advertising copy which, featuring Negro models, makes a straightforward appeal to potential customers among the Negro population.

Pioneers in this kind of advertising are, in the main, manufacturers and retailers of such consumer goods as clothing, food and home furnishings. However, it well might be that other enterprising merchandisers soon will be showing increased interest in the Negro market.

For the economic advance of Negroes in the nation's labor force, it already has been sub-

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Senate Report Concludes Negroes' Lot Is Improving

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Shift Generally Maintained

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ers was about \$400—less than 40 per cent of the average for white wage earners.

The summary noted that since 1939 the average for Negro workers has increased relatively more than for white workers.

It also commented:

"An important factor in changes in average annual income of all Negroes between 1945 and 1950 has been their continuing shift into nonagricultural employment."

During the 1940-1950 decade, when World War II opened up many job opportunities, there was a marked shift of the Negro population from Southern to Northern, Central, and Western states.

"The Middle Atlantic, East North Central, and Pacific states had the most appreciable increases in their Negro population," the summary said, "and the percentage increases far exceeded those of the white population."

50 Pct. Increase Noted

In the last decade New York, Detroit, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, Cleveland, San Francisco, Newark, and Oakland have experienced an increase of more than 50 per cent in their Negro population.

The report said those were among 27 cities with 50,000 or more Negroes in 1950—all cities in which Negroes made up 10 per cent or more of the total population.

Among those 27 cities, the proportion of Negroes in the population declined only in the five Southern cities of Memphis, Birmingham, Houston, Norfolk, and Dallas.

In 1950 over 4,500,000, or 29.5 per cent, of all of the nation's 15,500,000 Negroes were living in those 27 cities, compared with nearly 24,000,000, or 17.6 per cent of all white persons in the population.

Turning to education, the report said that in 1950 Negroes of 25 or over had completed an average of seven years of school, almost three years less than the average for white.

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